

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Kempston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dr. Sutton having retired from the post of Medical Officer of Health in June, 1950, I have the honour to submit the Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics, and sanitary conditions of the Kempston Urban District for the year 1949.

From the available statistics it appears that the general health of the population has been satisfactory during the year.

A study of the infectious disease notifications shows that there was a high incidence of scarlet fever, the bulk of the cases occurring in the last quarter of the year and affecting chiefly the 5-10 year age group. Measles, too, occurred in epidemic form, the incidence again affecting chiefly the 5-10 year age group, and taking place in the second quarter of the year. No cases of diphtheria, poliomyelitis, or meningitis were notified during the year.

In conclusion I welcome this opportunity of thanking the Officials of the district and the staff for their helpful co-operation and efficient service.


I am,

Your obedient Servant,

M. J. PLEYDELL,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

January, 1951.



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# KEMPSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1949

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### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

M. J. Pleydell, M.C., M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

C. A. L. Setchell, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat Inspection,  
Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,302
Population, Census for 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,488
Registrar General's estimate of resident population up to Mid Year, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,800
Number of Inhabited Houses (at end of 1949) according to the Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,428
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£35,776
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£140

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The majority of employed people work in Bedford, or at Brick Works south of Kempston. A considerable number of men and girls are employed at Engineering Works in Bedford.

Apart from the Electric Lamp Works, the remainder in Kempston are small concerns comprising a Shoe Factory, Leather Works, Iron Foundry Works, Pattern Makers, Engineering Works, Crayon Works, Cardboard Box Factory, Tin Works and Metal Hose Works.

Social conditions are dominated by the housing shortage, with the consequence that many families are sharing houses and living in rooms often quite unsuitable. Although the Council are erecting houses as quickly as present restrictions and labour shortages will allow no end at present can be seen to this problem.

## STATISTICS.

				<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	136	73	63	} Birth Rate 16·3 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
		Illegitimate	...	7	4	3	
		Total	...	<u>143</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>66</u>	

The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 16·7 per total population.

				<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Still Births	{	Legitimate	...	7	5	2	} Birth Rate 46·7 per 1,000 births (live and still)
		Illegitimate	...	0	0	0	
				<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	

					<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Deaths	...	...	...	...	94	38	56

giving a crude death rate of 10·7 per 1,000 of the resident population. Adjusted death rate is 10·9. The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 11·7 per 1,000 total population.

### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List.)

					<i>Deaths</i>
No. 29	Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis	...	...	...	0
No. 30	Other Maternal causes	...	...	...	0

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—0.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Abortion with Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0·11	per 1,000 (live and still) Births				
Abortion without Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0·05	"	"	"	"	"
Puerperal Infections	...	...	...	...	0·11	"	"	"	"	"
Others	...	...	...	...	0·71	"	"	"	"	"

### INFANTILE MORTALITY

				<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Death of Infants under one year—	Legitimate			...	...	...
	Illegitimate			...	...	...
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	21·0
" " " Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	36·7
" " " Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	0
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 32·0						

# CAUSES OF DEATH

										M.	F.
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
8	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
9	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
10	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
11	Acute Polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
12	Acute infective encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
13	Cancer, all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	9
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
15	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	5
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	18
17	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
18	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
19	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
20	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
21	Ulceration of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
22	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
23	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
24	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
25	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
26	Puerperal and Post-Abortion sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
27	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
28	Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
29	Congenital Malformations, Birth injuries and infantile diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
30	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
31	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
32	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
33	All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
ALL CAUSES										38	56

# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

## 1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service is situated in the Department of Pathology, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

This Service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council acting for the Ministry of Health and is free of charge to the local authority.

One of the main functions of this Service is to co-operate with General Practitioners and Medical Officers of Health in the diagnosis, prevention, and control of infectious diseases. For these purposes the laboratory will undertake the examination of material, e.g., throat swabs, sputa, faeces, urine and blood from any patient suspected to be suffering from a communicable infection, or of being a carrier. All General Practitioners in the district have been acquainted of these facilities.

## 2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the increasing demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulances or sitting case car transport are available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

Out-patients of Hospitals using public transport are reimbursed their travelling expenses by the Hospital Authorities.

The service now also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows:—

BEDFORD

Newnham Avenue

AMPTHILL

Claridges Lane

BIGGLESWADE

Crab Lane

*Telephone*

Bedford 4875

Amphill 2187

Biggleswade 2295

DUNSTABLE	<i>Telephone</i> Dunstable 76
High Street North	
LUTON	Luton 4600
42 Church Street	
LINSLADE	Leighton Buzzard 3332
Linslade, Leighton Buzzard and Wing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters, 10 New Road, Linslade.	
RUSHDEN	Rushden 403
Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association, Mr. C. C. Woods, 3 Purvis Road.	

### 3. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The County Council is responsible under the National Health Service Act, 1946, for the provision of these Services and employs the nurses and midwives in the district. Direct administration is by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The nurses employed are:—

Nurse M. Clark\*†

Nurse M. Minards\*†

† S.C.M. (State Certified Midwife)

\* S.E.A.N. (State Enrolled Assistant Nurse)

### 4. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are undertaken by the County Council.

*Infant Welfare Clinic*:—Is held at the Kempston Methodist Schoolroom (Foster Road), on every Friday, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

*The Ante-Natal Clinic*:—Is held also at the Methodist Schoolroom, on alternate Wednesdays, at 10 a.m.

*Venereal Disease Clinic*:

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Bedford County Hospital ... (Amphill Road Entrance)	Monday to Friday (inclusive) 4-8 p.m.	Monday, Tuesday, 6 p.m. Wednesday, 5-7 p.m. Thursday, 6 p.m. Friday, 3-5 p.m.

Medical Officer in attendance: Mondays, 5-6.30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 5-7.30 p.m.; Fridays, 2.30-5.30 p.m.



### *Chest Clinic:—*

The Chest Clinic is situated in St. Peter's Hospital, Kimbolton Road, Bedford. The Physician in Charge is of consultant status and is in daily attendance. Patients are seen by appointment only, except in the case of emergency.

For consultation in special cases, at the discretion of the Physician in Charge, Dr. Lee Lander, Consultant Physician, Brompton Hospital, visits the area for one session each fortnight.

The hours of the Clinic are as follows:—

Monday, 2 p.m.—3.30 p.m.	...	...	...	Pneumothorax refills
Monday, 6 p.m.—7 p.m.	...	...	...	Pneumothorax refills (workers)
Tuesday morning and afternoon	...	...	...	Women and Children
Wednesday morning and afternoon	...	...	...	Contacts (both sexes)
Thursday morning and afternoon	...	...	...	Men
Friday, 9 a.m.—11 a.m.	...	...	...	Pneumothorax refills

## 5. HOSPITALS.

The district is served by the Bedford Hospitals—the County and St. Peter's Hospital. These hospitals are controlled by the Bedford Group Hospital Management Committee.

### LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

#### ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Public Health Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Sections 61 and 67.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

#### BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Prevention of Nuisances.

Cleansing of Footways.

New Streets and Buildings.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc.

Slaughter Houses.

## SCHOOLS.

There are three schools in the District:—

### 1. KEMPSTON SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL.

The average number of pupils on the roll is 305 and the average attendance 246. The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	...	7 W.C.s and 9 washbasins.
Boys	...	...	...	...	8 W.C.s (shared with Juniors from Primary School); 2 urinals and 11 washbasins.



## 2. BEDFORD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The average number of pupils on the roll is 257 and the average attendance 235.  
The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	...	7 W.C.s (Infants and Juniors).
Boys	...	...	...	...	2 W.C.s and urinal (Juniors share Modern School Urinal).

There are 9 washbasins.

## 3. THE UP END PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The average number of pupils on the roll is 370 and the average attendance is 338.  
The sanitary accommodation is as follows:—

Girls	...	...	...	...	5 W.C.s (Junior). 3 W.C.s (Infants).
Boys	...	...	...	...	2 W.C.s and 1 urinal (Junior). 2 W.C.s (Infants).

Each of the schools has a main water supply. School dinners are provided in canteens situated at the Kempston Secondary Modern School and in Farrer Street.

An increase in sanitary accommodation is required to achieve the prescribed standards.

# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

## 1. WATER SUPPLY.

The District's water comes mainly from a greensand source and is purchased in bulk from the Biggleswade Water Board. That supplied to the Ampthill Road area is obtained from the Bedford Corporation.

At the present time, with the exception of four cottages situated on the extreme outskirts, water is supplied by the Council's mains directly to every dwelling house in the area.

The main water supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality. An extension of 157 yards of three inch main was laid during the year and the services to the thirteen houses were renewed and four supply mains repaired.

There are a few private wells in existence, the water from which is mainly used for horticultural purposes.

Water sampling is not carried out by this authority, but copies have been submitted of the results of all chemical and bacteriological examinations made on behalf of the two undertakings concerned. These have all revealed a quality of high standard.

There are 82 consumer meters in use in the District.

The water consumption figures for the year are given in the following table:—

							<i>Gallons</i>
Kempston Urban District	...	...	...	...	...	...	101,938,000
Elstow	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,468,000
Cardington	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,300,000
R.A.W.	...	...	...	...	...	...	57,205,000
Total							163,911,000

Cold water taps are re-washed free of charge by the Council and during the year 34 received attention.

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Apart from the following premises which are situated in the out-parts of the District, all dwelling houses are connected to the sewers:—

<i>Situation</i>						<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>Sanitary Arrangements</i>
Sailor's Bridge	...	...	...	...	...	2	Pail Closets
Mill Cottage	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Kempston Mill	...	...	...	...	...	1	Chemical Closets
Bury Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	4	Pail Closets
Hoo Lodge	...	...	...	...	...	1	Cesspool
The Mill House	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
The Manor	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Manor Cottage	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
The Manor Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	2	„
Kempston Grange	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
Grange Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	2	„
The Bury	...	...	...	...	...	1	„
32, Elstow Road	...	...	...	...	...	1	„

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

The complete scheme for the remodelling and enlargement of the Works, which was the subject of Ministerial Enquiry in 1946 still remains in abeyance.

## 3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints have been received of river or stream pollution during the year, and no action has been necessary.

## 4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

With the exception of seven houses in the outlying parts of the district which have pail or chemical closets all houses have water closets.

## 5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There are no ash-pits or privies in the area. Pail closets are emptied weekly by the Council's men with tank carts, and contents discharged at the sewerage outfall.

The weekly collection of refuse and salvage in one operation from all premises has been continued by a Battery driven Refuse Collector, drawing a trailer. Approximately 1,425 tons of house refuse was disposed of during the year.

The following table shows the quantities of salvage sold during the year:—

							<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Waste Paper, Books, Cardboard	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	1½
Scrap Iron and Tins	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3¾
Non-ferrous Metals	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	19
Textiles	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	16
Rubber	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Bones	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1¼
Bottles and Jars	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	15
Manure	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Total							22	16½

Revenue from sale of Salvage during the year amounted to £140 12s. 6½d.

The emptying of street gullies and street scavenging has been carried out whenever labour was available.

In May the Government Direction on Local Authorities to collect waste paper and textiles was rescinded and although the Council continued the collection of waste paper no market for it could be found.

## 6. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table shows the number of inspections made during the year, for all purposes:—

Dwelling-houses inspected and Recorded under the Housing Acts Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Ordinary Inspections for housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Sanitary routine inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	243
Inspection of Slaughter-houses and Foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Visits and re-visits to Council Property relating to reported defects and repairs of same	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	596
Inspection of Factories and Workshops, including Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Inspection of Cow-sheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Visits re Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28

Inspections under Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Other Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
Water Services	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Building Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	560

## 7. SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action with regard to shops and offices was found necessary.

## 8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There are no factory chimneys in the district which required attention during the year, and complaints regarding the emission of smoke from Kempston Barracks were promptly dealt with informally.

## 9. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no privately owned or other swimming baths open to the public in the District.

## 10. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the year under review 3 houses privately owned and 2 Council houses were found to be infested with bugs.

These were disinfested and two separate methods have been put into operation as follows:—

- (1) Skirting boards and architraves pulled away from walls in all rooms, all floor covering removed and destroyed. Holes bored in ceilings of all rooms. All windows, doors and chimney openings sealed and disinfested by High Concentration of Gas (Cescones).
- (2) Procedure as above, but no openings sealed, and disinfested with a liquid fumigant (Zaldecide), in the form of a spray pressure driven, behind all skirting boards, architraves, picture rails and all other likely places.
- (3) Periodic revisiting is carried out and process repeated where found necessary.

## 11. PUBLIC MORTUARY.

During the year 13 bodies were received into the mortuary, which by arrangement is available for use by the neighbouring Authorities of Bedford Rural and Ampthill.

## HOUSING.

Since the end of the second world war, a total of 154 houses which includes twenty prefabricated bungalows, have been erected by this Authority whose estates at the end of the year numbered 209 houses. Twenty houses are at present under construction and approval of the Tender by the Ministry of Health for a further 10 is awaited.

In this period 39 houses have been erected by private enterprise.

Plans for well over 100 private dwelling houses have now been approved and if building restrictions were lifted it is quite certain that the persons concerned would proceed with their erection.

### APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES.

At the end of the year there were 676 names of applicants for houses on the Register, but a subsequent revision reduced the total of applicants still to be satisfied to 390. Details of these are as follows:—

Residing but not working in Kempston	...	...	...	179
Residing and working in Kempston	...	...	...	83
Working but not residing in Kempston	...	...	...	29
Not working or residing in Kempston	...	...	...	99
				390

### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	31
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	50
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	...	...	...	...	9
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	9
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	31

### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	27
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### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

#### A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit at service of formal notices:—									
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—									
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

#### C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

#### D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

### 4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

Due to lack of alternative accommodation no action has been taken under this Part, although records of known cases are maintained, and fresh cases are continually being discovered.

### SURVEYOR'S INSPECTIONS OF BUILDING WORKS IN PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR.

Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Surface Water Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Footings and Foundations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Concrete to Foundations and Footings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Damp Course	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	123
Work in course of construction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	345
Alterations and additions to existing properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47



## NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED AND OCCUPIED DURING THE YEAR.

1. By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
2. By other Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
3. By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

## PLANS SUBMITTED AND DEALT WITH DURING YEAR.

### Dwelling houses:—

(a) Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
(b) Police	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(c) Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Private Garages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Extensions or alterations to existing buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Industrial and Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
New Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Building Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 7 dairy premises in the district to which 8 visits were made. The 1949 Milk Regulations now places the responsibility for the supervision of cowsheds on to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with whose local officers close liaison is maintained.

### (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The slaughtering of food animals in this area was discontinued on the 15th of January, 1940, under the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940.

Two Slaughter Houses are licensed in this area but have only been used during the period under review for the slaughter of pigs belonging to "self suppliers" from areas outside the radius specified, from a Government Slaughter House.

Nine licences to act as Slaughtermen were issued during the year.

Shops, vehicles and places where food is prepared have been duly inspected and found to be generally satisfactory.

Voluntary surrender of the undermentioned foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption has been made:—

Imported and Home Killed Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	78½ lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Fresh Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	234½ lbs.
Canned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	5¾ lbs.
„ Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	4½ lbs.
„ Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
„ Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	23 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	74 lbs.
Dried Peas	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Salad Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.



## ICE CREAM.

Seventeen premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and five for its manufacture in the District. During the year, however, only at two premises was ice cream actually manufactured and in each case the complete cold mix process was operated. Frequent visits have been made to these and the requirements of the Heat Treatment Regulations fully explained and found to be observed.

Apart from those who manufacture their own ice cream, the dealers in the District obtain their supplies of the pre-packed commodity from the large reputable wholesalers.

## DISINFECTION.

Fumigation of rooms has been carried out as follows, by a dilute spray of Formalin and by Formaldehyde Gas.

After Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	26
After Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	...	1

An inspection of the house and sanitary arrangements is also made in each case, and notice served to make good any defect that may be found.

## RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Ten complaints of rat infestation at premises in the district were investigated and measures taken to secure their eradication.

The sewage disposal works and refuse tips are kept under constant supervision and treated periodically with poison baits.

## CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL.

In August, 1945, local authorities were requested to undertake the licensing of building work, within certain limits, under Defence Regulation 56A, also the granting of licences for private builders to erect small houses. The following table shows the Building Licences issued during the year under review:—

<i>Number of Licences granted for the repair, etc., of—</i>									
Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£4,278
<i>Number of Licences granted for repair of—</i>									
Premises other than Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£200
<i>Number of Licences granted for the erection of—</i>									
New Dwellings for Sale or Owner Occupation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,100

Number of licences granted for work resulting in an increase of housing accommodation, 1—£725.

Your Sanitary Officer, who still remains single handed, continues to be concerned over the multifarious duties which are thrust upon him, the carrying out of which to the degree of efficiency that he would like to see attained is found to be a physical impossibility. The glimmer of hope that sustains him is the fact that in the not too far distant future it will become obvious that the provision of qualified assistance for his Department can no longer be delayed.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

### ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

Cases of infectious disease are sent either to the Steppingley or to the Spittlesea Isolation Hospital.

The present policy of the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, which is now the authority for the admission to hospital of patients suffering from infectious disease, is that scarlet fever and measles should be admitted only where it is considered advisable due to the seriousness of the illness, or to an unsatisfactory home environment.

#### *Measles*

103 cases were notified compared with 14 in 1948. This is an infection of which outbreaks occur approximately every second year.

#### *Erysipelas*

2 cases were notified, one patient being admitted to hospital.

#### *Pneumonia*

5 cases were notified.

#### *Scarlet Fever*

50 cases were notified compared with three in the previous year, 7 of these were admitted to Isolation Hospital. These cases occurred as "dropping" cases and were not traced to any single source.

#### *Whooping Cough*

11 cases occurred compared with 29 in 1948.

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

	Measles	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis
Total cases notified ...	103	—	2	5	50	—	11	—	—
Cases admitted to Hospital	—	—	1	—	7	—	—	—	—
Total Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases under 1 year ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 1-2 years	10	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 2-3 years	23	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 3-4 years	15	—	—	—	7	—	2	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 4-5 years	25	—	—	—	10	—	2	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 5-10 years	26	—	—	1	26	—	4	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 10-15 years	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 15-20 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 20-35 years	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 35-45 years	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases from 45-65 years	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases 65 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

# TUBERCULOSIS

## New Cases and Mortality

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
1 year to 5 years ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
5 years to 10 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ 15 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ 20 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ 25 „ ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ 35 „ ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35 „ 45 „ ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 „ 55 „ ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 „ 65 „ ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	3	1	1	2	1	—	—

## ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

With the coming into force of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council assumed responsibility for the functioning of a scheme under which facilities are available for children of all ages to obtain this important preventive treatment free of charge, either from the family doctor at his surgery, or from a medical officer at any of the Welfare Centres or schools within the County.

The following figures are presented through information supplied by Dr. G. K. Bowes, the Northern Divisional Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1949, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1935).

Age at 31.12.49								Estimated mid-year child population, 1949		
Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total Under 15	Under 5	5-14	Total Under 15
14	78	115	86	128	622	451	1,494	715	1,185	1,900

These figures indicate that 58.9 per cent of the child population under 5 years of age has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 63.6 per cent at the end of 1948. 90.5 per cent of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 82.4 per cent at the end of the previous year; while 78.6 per cent of the children under 15 years of age have been protected against diphtheria by immunisation.

## CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

### Scabies

By arrangement with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford. On 1st April, 1949, the cost was increased from 2s. to 10s. per treatment.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review 2 treatments were given.

## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was necessary to be taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

## TUBERCULOSIS

No necessity arose for any action to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons in the Milk Trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to compulsory removal to Hospital).

## FACTORIES.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

### PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c. line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	6	6	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	43	20	4	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding workers' premises)	3	1	1	—	—	3
Totals ...		50	27	4	—	

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	M/c. line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c. line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	4	1	1	—	1	—	4
Overcrowding(S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable tem- perature (S.3)...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate venti- lation (S.4) ...	7	1	1	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveni- ences (S.7)—							
(a) insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	2	2	—	1	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Totals ...		4	4	—	2	—	

## PART VIII OF THE ACT.

### OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111.)

Nature of Work (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Section 110			Section 111			M/c. line. No. (9)
		No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110(1)(c) (3)	No. of cases of default in send- ing lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecu- tions (8)	
Wearing apparel— Making, etc. ...	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	13

